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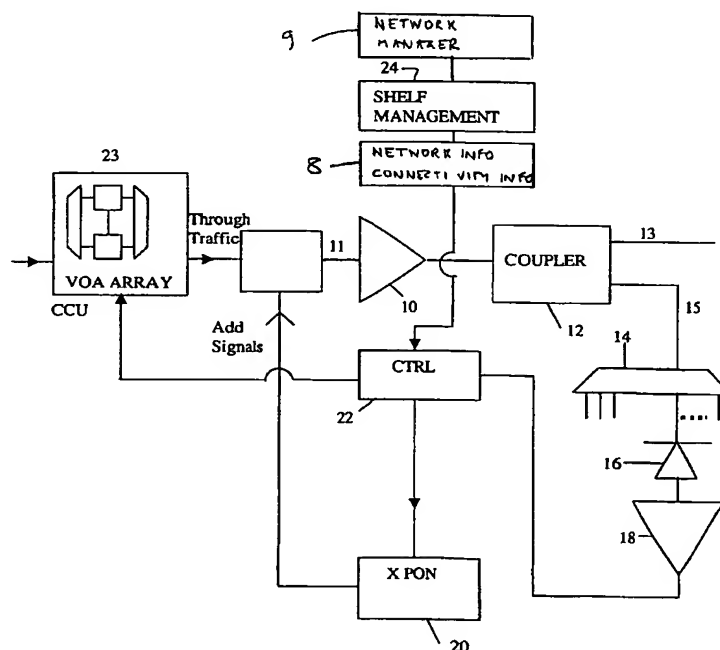
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(54) Title: MAXIMISING POWER IN OPTICAL COMMUNICATION NETWORKS



(57) Abstract: The relative launch power of signals at an add/drop node transponder is controlled to maximise available power. Known values of signal bandwidth and likely noise in the signal path (8), for example, derived from the system manager (24,9), are used to control (22) the launch power (23) into the optical amplifier (11), in order to optimise the launch power accordingly.